



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL OFFICE OF FIRE & AVIATION
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

ACTIVITIES THAT ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS



Activities that accomplish the International Program's (IP) goals are concentrated in the following four activities: (See individual trip reports and annual reports for more details.)

1. Technical and scientific exchanges with countries faced with similar fire management issues:

Through technical and scientific exchanges, BLM fire staff employees are exposed to new techniques, equipment, procedures and approaches to similar wildland fire management issues. Exposure to other countries' strengths and weaknesses may reveal better and sometimes simpler approaches to the same issue. These activities are funded by the OF&A and the states that have participated.

Technical and scientific exchanges have been with Canada, Mexico, Norway and Russia. In August 2002 the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture entered into an arrangement with Australia and New Zealand to assist each other with wildfire suppression. The arrangement also included language for entering into exchanges with Australia and New Zealand. In 2003 we will participate in our first exchange with Australia.

2. Technical support to countries in need of fire management training and disaster relief assistance through reimbursable agreements with other Federal agencies;

IP works closely, and supports, the Forest Service's Disaster Assistance Support Program (DASP), which supports U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).



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This support includes:

- assisting and facilitating the attendance of BLM employees in Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) training;
- facilitating BLM employees in being assigned 4-6 weeks details in the OFDA's Logistics office in Washington D.C;
- facilitating BLM employees to travel internationally for disaster assistance assignments.
- facilitating the delivery of equipment and supplies for International disaster relief efforts.

Through this relationship with the FS, approximately 60 BLM employees have received the DART training, and there have been 72 details/overseas assignments in the past five years.

Some statistics for this reimbursable agreement are:

FY98 & 99	\$270,000.	15 work months saved
FY00	250,000.	8 work months saved
FY01	130,000.	8 work months saved
FY02	97,000.	6 work months saved

Through other reimbursable agreements, we have been involved with the following types of support: (See "COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL LIST" for more details.)

Firefighting assessment study	Jakarta, Indonesia
Firefighter training	Vladivostok, Russia
Evaluation of telecommunications	Mexico City, Mexico
Instructor in safety courses	Edmonton, Canada



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3. Outreach efforts through attendance at international meetings and conferences to stay abreast of global fire management issues:

Participation in international meetings and conferences with fire and aviation issues;

Some of these meetings have been in Canada, and Mexico, while others have been as far away as Australia, Spain, Russia and Portugal.

They have been for the purpose of participating in study groups, coordinating the development of official agreements, and upon request, making conference presentations.

4. Other International Activities:

Hosting International Activities and Guests.

Participating in the development and implementation of international agreements such as the U.S. - Mexico Cross Border Agreement signed by Interior and Agriculture; and the Wildfire Arrangement Between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture of the United States of American and the Australian and New Zealand Participating Agencies.

(See "COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL LIST" for more details for 3. and 4. above)